

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL - RISK ASSESSMENT

<p>3. To influence other council departments and Government organisations to fulfil the requirements of the Parish population.</p>	<p>1. Lack of effective lines of communication with other organisations.</p> <p>2. Lack of effective lines of communication with parishioners.</p> <p>3. Lack of preparation on subjects requiring influence.</p> <p>4. Lack of confidence by Parish Councillors.</p>	<p>Note all communication lines which are essential or beneficial and make information available to all councillors. Establish contacts by name and where possible face-to-face.</p> <p>Take every opportunity to publicise role of Parish Council. Create Parish newsletter if none exists. Effective use of Notice Boards and “fliers”. Use key issues to raise profile of PC and to test parishioner’s views. Add social event to occasional meeting. Create Annual PC plan and put to parishioners for comment.</p> <p>Ensure that all councillors are aware of need for careful research and are guided as to where to obtain relevant information on issues under discussion.</p> <p>As at 1 above. Experienced councillors to assist newcomers to establish essential contacts. Delegate responsibility for specific contacts to individual councillors</p>	<p>Chairman Clerk</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Chairman Vice-Chairman Clerk</p> <p>All Councillors</p>	<p>MKCC are contacted as required for guidance and support.</p> <p>Via Website and Facebook (on occasions).</p> <p>It has been decided that LBPC will not be producing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>This is provided by the Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Clerk.</p> <p>This has been adopted and is currently working.</p>
<p>4. To ensure that all councillors are aware of their responsibilities, and possible liabilities, and to provide adequate insurance cover for all possible risks</p>	<p>1. Lack of knowledge of possible culpability of councillors.</p> <p>2. Lack of education of Councillors regarding culpability.</p> <p>3. Inadequate insurance cover taken out – property, personal liability, employer’s liability.</p>	<p>Creation of standing orders and familiarisation with those where greatest risk occurs.</p> <p>As at 1 above. Delegate responsibility to one or two councillors to assist newcomers to understand culpability. Attend any training courses available.</p> <p>Review risk assessment by including on agenda of PC meetings at least once a year. Delegate responsibility for keeping up to date with insurance requirements to an individual councillor.</p>	<p>Clerk All Councillors</p> <p>Chairman Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>The latest version of S/O’s were reviewed and adopted at meeting held on the 04/0923.</p> <p>This is provided by the Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk to ensure that this is covered as an agenda item when necessary.</p>

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<p>5. To keep appropriate books of account accurately and up to date throughout the financial year.</p>	<p>1. Lack of knowledge of accounting requirements</p>	<p>Ensure that all councillors are familiar with current financial regulations and include them in standing orders. Regularly review standing orders.</p>	<p>Chairman Clerk</p>	<p>S/O's and Financial Regulations reviewed and adopted at meeting held on the 04/09/23.</p>
	<p>2. Lack of commitment to accounting requirements.</p>	<p>Appoint a councillor (or Clerk) as the RFO to take overall responsibility for financial management.</p>		<p>Clerk has been appointed as RFO.</p>
	<p>3. Bank charges unnecessarily incurred</p>	<p>As at 1 above. RFO to produce financial reports at all meetings. Internal audit reports to be made available to all councillors and any recommendations to be acted upon promptly.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>	<p>Financial reports are reviewed at every Parish Council meeting. Internal Audit reports are reviewed annually as part of the Annual Return.</p>
	<p>4. Inaccuracies in recording amounts totals in books of account, and bank reconciliations.</p>	<p>RFO to carry out regular inspection of books of account. Internal audit to be undertaken periodically during the current financial year.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>A review of accounts is conducted quarterly at Parish Council meetings.</p>
	<p>5. Inaccuracies and interest losses caused by account transfers.</p>	<p>RFO to ensure that books of account are formatted in such a way that internal controls are included and activated. Regular internal audits to advise on internal controls required.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>A review of accounts is conducted quarterly at Parish Council meetings.</p>
	<p>6. The most beneficial interest terms not being employed.</p>	<p>Keep number of accounts to a minimum but ensure that any large credit balances are deposited in an interest-bearing account.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>We have one account, and this is reviewed monthly.</p>
	<p>7. Inadequate control of cash receipts and payments.</p>	<p>Ensure that favourable interest rate is obtained in deposit accounts and review against alternatives but bearing in mind the risks in changing accounts.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>We have one account, and this is reviewed monthly.</p>
	<p>8. Books of account not kept up to date/ invoices not posted promptly.</p>	<p>Avoid cash payments and receipts if possible. Where cash payments and receipts are unavoidable use a properly controlled petty cash account with a set maximum balance.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>N/A.</p>
	<p>9. Internal controls not in place or not operated.</p>	<p>Regular checks by RFO and internal auditor. Financial reports at all PC meetings.</p>	<p>RFO / Clerk</p>	<p>Books are checked monthly by the Clerk and a review of accounts is conducted quarterly at Parish Council meetings.</p>

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	5. VAT claims not made promptly or made incorrectly.	Ensure Clerk has appropriate and up-to-date VAT official publications. Regular checks by councillor appointed as RFO. Internal audit checks.		VAT claim to be submitted at least once a year.
9. To ensure that salaries paid to employees and amounts paid to contractors are paid in accordance with council regulations, and adequately monitored.	<p>1. Inappropriate rate of pay to employees.</p> <p>2. Tax and NI arrangements not in accordance with regulations.</p> <p>3. Amounts paid to contractors not in accordance with contract and inadequately monitored.</p>	<p>Ensure employee regulations are available and understood by Clerk. Checks by councillor appointed as RFO. Internal audit checks</p> <p>As at 1 above.</p> <p>Internal audit checks Checks by councillor appointed as RFO. Appoint councillor to monitor contract work carried out.</p>	<p>Chairman / RFO / Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>Salary to be paid in accordance with National published Salary Scales.</p> <p>Clerk to ensure that all rules are followed. Clerk has run a PAYE System from 03/09/12.</p> <p>This is reviewed monthly at Parish Council meetings.</p>
10. To ensure that year end accounts are prepared on the correct accounting basis, on time, and supported by an adequate audit trail.	<p>1. Lack of knowledge of Council regulations and procedures.</p> <p>2. Late or non- submission of annual accounts.</p> <p>3. Year-end accounts not prepared, inaccurate, or not in accordance with Council requirements.</p> <p>4. Inadequate audit trail from records to final accounts.</p>	<p>Include financial regulations in Standing Orders. Attend training seminars where available.</p> <p>Include a time table in Standing Orders. Councillor appointed as RFO to monitor progress against timetable and report to PC meetings.</p> <p>Checks by councillor appointed as RFO. Internal audit checks</p> <p>As at 3 above.</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>Year-end accounts are prepared by the Clerk and are reviewed at the April meeting. These are subject to an annual internal audit and are signed off at the June meeting and submitted as part of the Annual Return.</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>
11. To identify, value, and maintain all the assets of the Parish Council, and ensure that asset and investment	1. Lack of knowledge of assets of Parish Council.	Ascertain and record all assets for which Parish council is responsible. Create permanent asset register.	Clerk)

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<p>registers are complete, accurate and properly maintained.</p>	<p>2. Assets lost or misappropriated</p> <p>3. Inadequate or inaccurate valuation of the council's assets.</p> <p>4. Asset register not established or inadequately maintained.</p>	<p>Establish who is responsible for security and maintenance of each asset. Appoint councillor responsible for regular monitoring of location and use of assets.</p> <p>Arrange for periodic review of valuations and arrange for professional valuation where necessary. Internal audit checks.</p> <p>Create asset register in accordance with Audit Commission requirements.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>Reviewed annually as part of the Internal Audit and Annual Return submission.</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>
<p>12. To comply with appropriate Government legislation regarding disability, racial equality, safeguarding children etc.</p>	<p>1. Lack of knowledge of applicable legislation</p> <p>2. Lack of public awareness of applicable legislation.</p> <p>3. Failure to comply with applicable legislation.</p>	<p>Clerk to have all appropriate legislation available. Review liabilities and responsibilities periodically at PC meetings.</p> <p>Include, as appropriate, in any public consultations.</p> <p>As at 1 above</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>Clerk to ensure that he/she are up to date with current legislation and include as agenda items, when required.</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>
<p>13. To carry out adequate safety checks on all buildings, properties, and equipment for which the council is responsible.</p>	<p>1. Lack of information on properties, buildings, and equipment.</p> <p>2. Lack of knowledge of safety requirements.</p> <p>3. Lack of commitment to carrying out safety checks.</p> <p>4. Complete a review of all trees that are under the control of the Parish Council</p>	<p>Ensure that all current legislation and advice is held by Clerk. Include in asset register all properties for which PC responsible.</p> <p>Ensure that all current legislation and advice is held by Clerk. Place subject as item on PC meeting agenda at regular intervals.</p> <p>As at 2 above. Delegate responsibility to individual councillors.</p> <p>Ensure that a safety check is conducted at least once a year.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>) The main asset is the Community Centre, and any issues are covered at the regularly held meetings of the Community Centre Committee. Also, an update will be available as an agenda item at each Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p><i>Some overhanging trees near the Play equipment – Clerk is in the process of obtaining MKCC permission to complete the work.</i></p>

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	<p>5. Complete a review of any Bus Shelters under the ownership of the Parish Council.</p> <p>6. Ensure that MKC carry out safety checks on the Play Equipment on the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>7. Complete a review of any benches under the ownership of the Parish Council.</p> <p>8. Undertake regular safety checks to the 2 Notice Boards.</p> <p>9. Undertake regular checks to the boundary fences on the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>10. Pavements</p> <p>11. Overhanging Bushes / Shrubs</p> <p>12. Damaged Road Surfaces</p>	<p>Ensure that this is checked at least on a six-monthly basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked annually.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked at least on a six-monthly basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked on a six-monthly basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked on a six-monthly basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked on a six-monthly basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked on a regular basis.</p> <p>Ensure that these are checked on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk</p>	<p><u>No problems as at end January 2024, but it could do with re-staining in the future.</u></p> <p><u>No problems as at end of January 2024.</u></p> <p><u>No problems as at end of January 2024 but there is a very old bench that could do with replacing.</u></p> <p><u>No problems as at end of January 2024.</u></p> <p><u>No problems as at end of January 2024.</u></p> <p><u>The Pavement on Great Brickhill Lane from the flats to the entrance of Wyness Avenue requires a safety check / repair by MKCC. Clerk has reported this to MKCC under reference <u>FS5555688505.</u></u></p> <p><u>Leaves on the pavement from Eversden Close to the Village Hall. Clerk has reported this to MKCC under reference <u>MKCC582852727.</u></u></p> <p><u>Overhanging shrubs on the pavement near the Church require pruning again. Work completed by MKCC.</u></p> <p><u>Clerk to undertake an audit as soon as possible.</u></p>
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	13. Defibrillators	To be checked on a regular basis.	Clerk / Resident	Village Hall. The battery requires changing every 4 years – next date is? <u>Clerk to check</u> and the PAD'S every 2 years – next date is January 2026.